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IN THE CLAIMS:

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Claims 1 - 22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A dual mode laser comprising:

an outcoupler;

a first highly reflective mirror;

a second highly reflective mirror;

an active medium disposed within a resonator cavity defined by said outcoupler and said first mirror in a first mode of operation and second mirror in a second mode of operation;

a polarizer disposed in operational alignment with said outcoupler and said first and second mirrors;

a polarization rotator for changing the polarization of a beam reflected by said outcoupler;

a saturable absorber operationally coupled to said medium and having a transmittance property that varies in response to incident energy; and

a laser diode disposed external to said medium for applying energy to said material with a pulse having a duration that is shorter than a round trip delay time of light within said resonator in said first mode of operation and with a series of pulses at a mode-locking frequency in said second mode of operation.

Claims 24 - 31 (Canceled)